Kent 57.

AN ADDRESS TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF *CANTERBURY*.

BY

THOMAS ROCH, CITIZEN.

Do thou, Great LIBERTY! *inspire our Souls,*
And make our Lives in thy Possession happy.

Addison.

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An ADDRESS *to the* ELECTORS.

IT is a notion I fear, too frequently re-received among the labouring part of my Fellow-citizens, that the choice of members to repreſent us in parliament, is a matter of no material conſequence to them. An opinion of this kind ſtrongly imbib'd makes the heart eaſy of acceſs, and the firſt warm ſolicitation to thoſe who are above accepting a bribe for their vote, ſeldom fails of ſecuring a promiſe; yet they all know we are called a free people, and though they may not conſider the ſource from whence our freedom ſprung, the bleſſings we enjoy from it, the means by which it muſt be ſupported, and the methods that may be taken to deſtroy it; they value themſelves as true born *Engliſhmen*, and cry aloud for liberty and property. The labourers in this kingdom indeed enjoy that bleſſing in a much higher degree than the nobility, in compariſon of the difference that there is in the two degrees of ſubjects

who live under a despotic government; for under such a government, the monarch who knows that by nature, all men are anxious for freedom, is obliged to invest a number of his nobility with power little inferior to his own, and they, and (what is more oppressive) their deputies, are stationed as viceroys or governors in different districts of his dominions, with armies at their command to strike terror and keep every one in subjection. As the number must be infinite and the expence immense to keep a discontented people under, and as the wealth of all nations must spring from the labourers, they are obliged to support the grandeur of their rigid task-masters, who have not only a power to fix a price upon their labours in their different manufactures, but can seize even the labourer himself, and send him forth loaded with instruments of war, to fight their battles in distant regions, from whence there is but little prospect that they will ever return to their native land.

It has been observed by all travellers, that in such nations the nobility are immensely rich, and the labouring people miserably poor; indeed they must be so, when both their labours and persons are subject to command. Yet most of those nations have formerly tasted the sweet enjoyment of liberty, that darling blessing and passion of mankind; but when ambi-

ambition filled the hearts of their leading men, they looked on that plenty and freedom which the lower ſort enjoyed, as an abridgment of their grandeur and riches, and a bar to their ambition: this ſet them on ſchemes in their aſſemblies and ſenates, to concert ſuch meaſures as might moſt ſafely anſwer their purpoſe, and where violent meaſures appeared doubtful and dangerous, they mingled threats with perſuaſions, places and bribes; till, by ſtealing ſteps, they imperceptibly crept on the liberty of the people, who found themſelves in chains before they diſcovered the cauſe of their captivity: then every lord grew abſolute on his own land, and ſaw every neck bow to his ambition.

Let us then, who juſtly call ourſelves free-born *Engliſhmen*, compare the bleſſings we enjoy with the wretched ſtate of ſuch a miſerable people. In this kingdom the courts of judicature are open both to the king and the ſubject; the higheſt nobleman in the land has it not in his power to retain the loweſt labourer in his ſervice, without a mutual contract or agreement. Every man here has a power to fix a price on his own labour, and may ſeek for the beſt market in any part of the kingdom. No tax can be laid on food or raiment, or any neceſſary we uſe, without the conſent of the

majority of those who represent us in parliament.

The man who by time and application is bent at the loom, and he who bows with years and labour in the hop-garden, can see his sons, that have been reared by his daily earnings (and which, perhaps, is all his worldly treasure) safely stand by him as ornaments and supports to his declining state, without being in terror of having them forcibly wrested from him by any martial power. The meanest cottager in the kingdom is so absolute a lord in his own house, that (except from some violent trespass of the law) the greatest peer of the realm dares not force an entrance into his dwelling. These are but part of the privileges that the meanest free-born *Englishman* enjoys; and these may be held to the latest posterity, except you should have a parliament capable of giving them up, and a king willing to accept them.

Many of the evils under which this nation formerly groaned have been put in agitation by the influence of evil ministers, most of whom have been raised to that high station from the House of Commons; therefore as the bounty of our legislators hath given us the power of chusing our representatives, let us justly use this power, by endeavouring to send such men as we deem free from contention, avarice or ambition; such as know

know it their duty and interest to preserve the crown to his present Majesty, under whose ancestors we have been raised to so high a pitch of glory, and such as will study every method to support his dignity in the utmost splendor; such as will tenderly endeavour to ease his majesty of those weighty cares, constantly surrounding that royal head, ever anxious for the welfare of so numerous a people, and will most strictly maintain those privileges which every free-born *Englishman* can justly claim, and which will most certainly perpetuate that noble spirit that has actuated our native strength and courage, to spread *England*'s fame in so many different parts of the universe, and has brought such wealth and honour to the nation.

It has happened in national assemblies, that points of the highest consequence have been carried by a single vote, and perhaps some members of that assembly have gained their elections by the same majority. Therefore, fellow-citizens, you must not think your votes of trivial consequence, for many dangerous schemes have been put in execution by the eloquence and power of a single man; and as such a man may be appointed or prevented by a single vote, each man should give his vote in the most conscientious manner; for he who disposes of it with a venal view, if evil accrues from

it, has as much to answer for, as he who makes the purchase to enable him to give the finishing stroke.

By the custom in antient *Rome*, when any man offered himself a candidate for any office of trust or honour, which was to be gained by the good opinion and voices of the people, he was obliged for the space of two years before the election to appear in all publick places in a white garment, as an emblem of a fair and unspotted reputation; and that the publick in that time might thoroughly know him, by inquiring into every part of his character: nor did they think it sufficient that they had a knowledge of the candidate, but thought it requisite that the candidate should have a knowledge of them, judging that those who were best acquainted and most familiar among them, would most earnestly endeavour by publick service to keep themselves high in publick esteem, for which reason a law forbid the use of whisperers in their canvass, to tell them the names of the electors as they approached them: and whilst they were obedient to the law which regarded their election, *Rome* maintained and extended her power, but when great men for want of merit, found means to delude the people with publick entertainments and bribes, it let such men into the legislative power as regarded nothing but their own im-

immediate interest; and they, by continuing to corrupt the hearts of the people, introduced luxury and its constant attendants, sloth and indolence among them, by which they were prepared by degrees for every mean submission, lost that noble spirit which raised them to such a wonderful state, and became subject to those whom before they had conquered.

Therefore, Fellow-citizens, as our general election is near, and as every gentleman who offers himself a candidate, offers every part of his character to publick scrutiny, we do both ourselves and the publick the highest injustice, if we omit making the nicest enquiry after every qualification and virtue they ought to be possessed of for so high a station and so great a trust.

Let every man arm himself against any persuasion, importunity and *groundless* promise, that may be urged to draw him from his natural inclination, and if we find it difficult to come at the real character of any of the candidates, let us form a judgment of the men by the *methods* they use in endeavouring for and procuring our votes; and if either they or their trumpeters advance their fame, fortune, inclination, interest or power to serve us beyond a *probability*, they give us fair warning to be on our guard; for if they deceive us in *these* points,

points, they will certainly do ſo in more material ones. On the other hand, if they ſhould endeavour to prevail on any perſons who have influence and power over any of the freemen to urge their commands, with threats to oblige ſuch freemen to proſtitute their votes, we may juſtly deem it dangerous to ſend *ſuch* men to that grand aſſembly, where liberty and property are to be defended, if they take ſuch methods to deſtroy them in ſupporting their own intereſts.

We ſhould likewiſe form a judgment of them by the *agents* they employ; for when any man's buſineſs extends beyond his own power of executing, his chief care is to get an agent or ſteward that wil ſteadily act according to *his* inſtructions, knowing that he muſt be accountable for the agent's conduct in all ſuch tranſactions as he employs him in. Next, as the *magiſtrates* ought to be a ſteady guide and example to people in every thing that concerns our national and city liberties, we ſhould obſerve their motions with the utmoſt circumſpection, and ſuch of them as appear from unbiaſſed principles to guide us with moderation and reaſon, we may juſtly deem the fathers of the city; but as it has been too cuſtomary on theſe occaſions to procure (by means ſometimes unknown) the magiſtrates and leading people of cities and boroughs, that

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they may do the office of decoy ducks in ſeducing their neighbours.

If any ſuch ſhould appear among *us*, let us endeavour to avoid their footſteps.

We find on theſe occaſions, a number of good and honourable men, who differ in their ſentiments in regard to the choice of candidates, and from reaſons beſt known to themſelves, ſupport their inclination with *ſome warmth*, yet with great decency; but there is another ſort of people who thro' pretended loyalty and zeal, keep up that *pernicious ſpirit of party*, to ſuch a degree that neighbours are frequently irreconcileable from election to election; and if we ſearch into the motives, we ſhall frequently find theſe men are in poſſeſſion or expectation of ſome publick employment, either for themſelves or ſome indigent relation, whom indolence or incapacity have rendered incapable of getting a livelihood any other way; and though it might be more advantage to the publick if ſuch men were paid their ſalaries without ſervice, yet the ſame intereſt which gets them in, generally continues them; for, gentlemen, (ſay they) we are a large family, and can command a great number of votes, and as we know you want our ſervice to ſerve yourſelves, it is but reaſonable we ſhould come in for a ſhare of the advantage. This kind of men, as they have a large ſtake

depending, against which they hazard nothing of their own, generally play the game with all the crafty, low, insinuating arts they are capable of, on such as are to be won that way, or with the highest reflections, rancour and malice on those who are above such mean practices. If they know any necessitous person, who can be prevailed on for a little money, they are sure to retain him at the expence of the candidates. Almost every poor man who has a vote has hopes given him of being provided for either with an *hospital's place or bead's man's, or some other annuity*. Any young Freeman who has a taste to the army, navy, excise, or any publick employment, has assurances from them of immediate advancement, by being persuaded that they have such interest with the candidates, and that the candidates have so strong an inclination to serve every man that votes for for them, and such powerful influence at court, that scarcely are they free to refuse them; and though this cheat is almost as stale as the trade of guinea-dropping, yet there are still a number weak enough to be taken in by it.

I have made a calculation (which I think a moderate one) to shew such men the chance they stand for preferment: suppose on this general election, there are at least throughout the kingdom, in counties, cities,

ties and boroughs, five hundred and fifty candidates that act on the plan of preferment, and that each of those, one with another may have twenty agents or vote-factors, to whom they have given promises of places, on condition they secure their election at an easy rate, which cannot be done in a more reasonable way than by making large promises. Then suppose that each of those factors, by bartering that said precious commodity for votes, secure only twenty to their interest, we shall then find that the sum total amounts to two hundred and twenty thousand that are in expectation of being maintained at the publick expence.

I really cannot see (but I am not in the secret) how this can be done, except the whole army be disbanded, and the navy entirely discharged; and even then, they cannot provide a firelock, or a place before the mast for each of their friends, except they get an order for raising a greater number of regiments, and putting more ships in commission.

Had I at present a good employment under the government, I should think it my interest to vote against any of these men who can procure such powerful interest by sitting in parliament; for as they are candidates, we may suppose they are men of honour, and their agents and vote-factors we

may deem the ſame, and will ſee every thing they have promiſed moſt punctually performed: if ſo, I muſt expect to be turned out of my office, and perhaps ſee it divided into ſeveral parts to give them an opportunity of ſuſtaining their honour and fulfilling their engagements. But to thoſe who are above thoſe temptations, their meaſures are more deſperate. If they know any man in trade whom they think weak enough to be frightened into their purpoſes, they carefully inquire where his intereſt in trade lies, then muſter up all their forces to prevail on his cuſtomers to give him notice that they will withdraw their favours if he does not vote as directed. Their next care is to inquire for ſuch tradeſmen as have no leaſes of their houſes, and endeavour to prevail on their landlords to give them warning, though it may be attended with the ruin of them and their families. Thus they endeavour to raiſe themſelves on the ruin of their neighbours, and always declare that they have no other view at heart, but the real good of king and country. Yet I could never hear any of theſe men advance a reaſon that could gain credit in favour of the men whoſe intereſt they eſpouſe; nor indeed does it appear reaſonable that they can, for if their friends were men of merit and honour, there would be no occaſion for ſuch methods to procure the election, nor would

he candidates, if they had that regard for he welfare and intereſt of the city, which hey generally profeſs, ſuffer their agents nd vote-factors to act in ſo baſe a manner.

As my property is connected with the reſt f my fellow-citizens in this affair, I think t both my intereſt and duty to expoſe every njuſtifiable method that is put in practice o prevent a free election; every inſinuation nd groundleſs report that is formed with eſign, to the favour or prejudice of any of he candidates; and every dangerous plot hat is laid to ſeduce and trepan the free-nen out of their votes.

Lately, a few labouring men, to the umber of thirty, formed themſelves into club, and agreed that every man, before dmittance, ſhould go through a ceremony which they call an oath, by holding up his and and declaring himſelf a freeman of he city, independent of all obligations in egard to elections, and would vote as the eſt of the company did. Mr. *R. F——r*, rewer, hearing of this fraternity, got him-lf admitted, and made no ſcruple to qua-fy himſelf by taking the oath; but being mpatient to diſcover his principles, he fixed n two of the members, Mr. *John Ledger* nd Mr. *Thomas Browne*, and taking them part, *John*, ſaid he, to *Ledger*, I have a heme to impart to you. I imagine that ve ſhall be all together on the day of elec-

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tion; ſuppoſe I ſhould take you and one or two more down to the poll-table, to vote as I ſhall direct you, and when you have ſo done, I ſhall ſufficiently reward you; then I purpoſe that you ſhall return and acquaint the reſt of the members how you have voted, and that you have been well rewarded, but you muſt not tell them *how much* you have received. Let me have your opinion, *John*, how do you approve of my ſcheme? Why really, ſir, ſaid *John*, I do not like it.

Honeſt *John* prudently conſidered, that by conſenting to this ſcheme, he muſt be the inſtrument of betraying his companions for a few guineas (or as they were to be mew'd up) if the election went greatly for or too much againſt Mr. *F——r*'s inclination, they might all remain together unnoticed and uncalled on, as they then could be of no uſe.

This intended impoſition ſo provoked *John*, that at their next meeting he diſcovered the plot to his brethren before Mr. *F——r*'s face, which ſo provoked Mr. *F——r*, that he declared, if he had him in *France*, he would give him cauſe to repent of the information. Beſides this method of obtaining numbers together, he uſed the following ſcheme for ſingle articles. He applied himſelf to *Abraham Bounds*, an antient man worn out with labour in the hop-

gardens,

ardens, and told him, that if he would ote for Sir *James* and Mr. *Mayne*, that he ould procure him an hospital's place, and entioned the gentleman's name by whose tereſt he would procure it. Some of *A-aham*'s friends judging that Mr. *F—r* d neither intimacy nor intereſt with the ntleman whoſe name he uſed, waited on d informed him of the promiſe that Mr. —*r* had made in his name; and were formed by him, that he knew no ſuch an as *Abraham Bounds*, nor had he given r. *F—r* leave to make uſe of his name ſuch an occaſion. Perhaps Mr. *F—r* ay imagine I go beyond a harmleſs free-m in relating thoſe facts: but certainly e fair dealer, who is injured by illicit actices, has a right (on proof) to give a blick information; and as there are a mber of my fellow-citizens in ſocial or neficial clubs, and as I apprehend there a number of deſigning men, who, on e preſent occaſion, take every publick and vate method to ſeduce the freemen; I nk it my duty to appriſe them, that they y be prepared to diſcover, and uſe ſuch ceivers as they deſerve.

Indeed ſuch arts as theſe have a fair ſpect of ſucceeding, for the hopes of a nfortable ſubſiſtance for life muſt be a at temptation to a poor man in a declin-ſtate. Sure ſuch men muſt have great ex-

expectations for themſelves, and no regard for the good opinion of their poor neighbours, or they would not mock their expectations in ſuch a manner. How ridiculous have many of them appeared, when, after emblazoning the characters of thoſe whoſe intereſts they eſpouſed, they have curſed them in publick, when they found themſelves deceived.

As I never applied for any intereſt but in trade, and as all the candidates are equal to me in that point, I ſhall take the freedom of right and cuſtom, in declaring what I know, and have heard of each; and as I do it thus openly, let no man pretend to contradict what I aſſert, but in the ſame candid manner.

I ſhall begin with the men of *Kent*, and firſt Mr. *Beſt*, whoſe ſituation, family, connection and acquaintance, have made him familiar and well known to the citizens, as a gentleman of good education and underſtanding, a man of ſtrict honour, a moſt punctual obſerver of his word, and a prudent manager of his own affairs; which I think, a ſtrong recommendation to the management of a publick one. His partner in the election, Mr. *Milles*, born in our neighbourhood, whoſe education and travels for ſome time paſt have made him a ſtranger to us, but by the publick opportunities he has lately given us, we have no reaſon o

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room to doubt that he inherits that honour and virtue which has raised every branch of that family in such high esteem among us.

Next, Sir *James Creed*, a wealthy merchant of the city of *London*, who was a stranger to us till within three days of last election, and after gaining it continued so till the present occasion required another application. This gentleman has a fair character both in publick and private life: some report he has dependance on the government in trade, but this I cannot think a reasonable objection to any man of honour, who is raised by fortune and spirit beyond temptation; and as there are numbers of useful and beneficial employments under the government, it would give me pleasure to see such men have a reasonable share of them who procure their elections with reputation, and fill their stations in parliament with loyalty and honour. Then we might expect to see the offices under them filled with men capable of discharging their duty to the general advantage of the publick. Indeed, I believe his interest has received no addition from the reports which Mr. *F——r* has spread of his being disappointed in places, which, he said, were promised him for his relations, which he has resented by making frequent declarations that he never more would appear in

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his favour; and told Mr. *Allen*, Mr. *West*, and Mr. *Brooks*, that he had been used so ill by the party, that he never more would appear in their troop. Mr. *Allen*, who knew him, doubted what he said, and the other replied, if I don't for the future ride in your troop, Mr. *Allen*, never more believe *R. F*——. But if after saying so, he should appear in the interest of Sir *James*, I think it will be doing that gentleman service, by making what he has said to his prejudice appear doubtful, and, I think, that Sir *James* has done as much as they deserve who voted for him on such motives.

The next is Sir *James*'s partner, Mr. *Mayne*, a *North-Britain*; but this can be no objection to his filling a seat in parliament, or any other publick office that he has integrity, moderation and capacity to fill, as it is well known that this part of *Great-Britain*, in proportion to its numbers, has furnished his majesty with as many good and useful subjects as any other part of his majesty's dominions: but I make it a material objection to his representing our *city* in *parliament*, where men of known honour in our own county and neighbourhood have offered themselves, from whom we may reasonably expect a more tender regard for our interest. This gentleman's very name 'till lately was unknown to us.

But

ut if, according to the ſcripture rule, by eir fruits you may know them; the firſt loſſoms that opened in his favour were r. *Hunter*, hop-merchant of the city of *ondon*, and Mr. *Abraham Rye*, dealer and apman, of the city of *Canterbury*, and hat they and ſome others have reported of m on this occaſion, ought at this time to moſt ſeriouſly conſidered; for if, as they ve repreſented, that he is capable of ad- ncing thoſe who vote for him, or preju- cing thoſe who vote againſt him, I think it fficient (as times go) to gain an election moſt parts of *England*. If he has no ch power (which I really believe he has t) I am far from charging Mr. *Mayne* ith giving ſuch inſtructions to thoſe who ve reported them. But I am confident at ſeveral who have appeared as his ionds, have in a moſt artful manner a- pted their perſuaſions and promiſes in ch various ſhapes as they judged moſt oper to work on the *paſſions*, *deſires* or *ceſſities* of the people, and have by ſuch eans *drawn in* a number to promiſe their tes: therefore as a citizen, I ſhould think yſelf guilty of a great omiſſion if I neg- cted laying before my fellow-citizens ſuch rts of the proceedings, as I can juſtly ove, that they may have an opportunity inquiring into the truth, or judging of e probability; and ſeriouſly conſider whe-

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ther they ought to think themſelves engaged, if it appears that the means which were uſed to *engage* them were uſed to *deceive* them.

I cannot conceive on what preſumption Mr. *Hunter* could offer us a perſon to repreſent us in parliament, except the merit of the *ſervice* he has done his king and country in the *hop* trade; but he undertook the jobb, and in the following manner opened the ſcene.

He told Mr. *Hopkins Fox*, a man of intereſt, credit and fortune, that the citizens had now an opportunity of doing themſelves great ſervice by accepting Mr. *Mayne*, who intended to offer himſelf to repreſent them in parliament: that Mr. *Mayne* was a man of great merit and fortune; that he had been preceptor to his MAJESTY, and that his MAJESTY was greatly improved in mercantile affairs, and thoroughly a judge of the ballance of trade, and from his inſtruction: that Mr. *Mayne* was a man of great parts, had great intereſt at court, and was an intimate friend and companion of Mr. PITT.

Several ſtories of this kind being ſpread abroad, expectations ran high in every quarter of the town. If any good woman went to tell her neighbour the good and joyful tidings, ſhe was prevented, by, lord! neighbour! I am glad you are come, I have great news to tell you: they ſay our KING's

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hool-maſter is coming to be our member f parliament, and that the KING will do ny thing that he aſks of him.

Mr. *Hunter* having thus laid the foun- tion, he left his very humble ſervant Mr. *braham Rye* to purchaſe proper materials r raiſing this candidate to a member of rliament.

When Mr. *Rye* opened *his* commiſſion, r. *Hunter*'s credentials appeared very mo- eſt, for Mr. *Rye* magnified Mr. *Mayne*'s *fluence* and *power at court* in ſo many va- ous ſhapes, that hopes might be enter- ined of having a great part of the *Court alender* filled up with the freemen of *Can- rbury*.

Things being thus prepared, he entered eriouſly into buſineſs; and it was a matter f no ſmall amuſement to the citizens, who new the *jobbs* in which he is generally ngaged, to hear him barter for a repreſen- ative in parliament. He propoſed that *his* iend, notwithſtanding his being a *North- Britain*, ſhould take down St. *Andrew*'s hurch, though even the church of his tu- elar ſaint, and rebuild one in a more con- enient place, *pay off* the work-houſe debt, *uild barracks*, or, in ſhort, do any thing hat might make us a happy people. The dle were to be employed, the naked cloath- ed, the hungry fed, and any rich candidate hat oppoſed him ſent empty away: and

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to convince us how vain it would be for any man to oppose his friend; he informed us, that great commanders both by sea and land, dock-yards, &c. were in his interest; that a great general, whose name he publickly mentioned, had, or would send circular letters to every freeman of *Canterbury* in the army, to appear on the day of election, and vote for Mr. *Mayne*; that another great person, whose name he likewise mentioned, had nine in the train of artillery, all at Mr. *Mayne's* service.

Mr. *Barnard Eggleston*, a freeman of this city, who lost a hand in the same engagement and ship where the brave captain *Cornwall* fell, and who has, on that account, an annuity from the government, being of a different interest, Mr. *Rye* said, he should be *brought to*, and that *he* would take care that a great gun should be fired at him for that purpose: he likewise declared, that if Mr. *Laffie* did not vote that way, his son, who is now a lieutenant, should never be raised from that station.

Every thing being thus circulated that could inspire hopes, or strike terror; Mr. *Mayne* made his appearance, was received, and admitted a freeman by the corporation, which he entertained in a genteel manner; and was a man of such address, that by some means or other, several of the aldermen appeared engaged in his interest. He can-

nvaded the city, gave *kisses*, *promises*, and *hall silver* to several poor freemens wives; wned that he was personally known to his AJESTY, and *intimate* with *lord Bute*, which lped to confirm what Mr. *Rye* had adnced, and gave strong expectations that would (as he promised) procure a disarge for two sons of *William Johncock*, w in his majesty's service in *Germany*; d, on the whole, went through the ceremony in a very *decent* manner, and departed. must confess that some of the freemen are o apt, upon these publick occasions, to ake impertinent inquiries, as, *who is he? hat is he? and how shall we know he can all these great things?* but Mr. *Abraham e*, who pretended to know *all*, remained the spot, and could answer for every ng.

Mr. *Mayne* gave a *convincing* proof of the at regard he had for our city, by purchag two hundred pounds worth of plate of *William Gray*, son of *William Gray*, ; our present right worshipful mayor: that could not be done with a view to s his worship, for every body knows he stanch sincere man, and always votes acding to the dictates of reason and conscie. His worship indeed has told several ple, that Mr. *Mayne* promised him, that MAJESTY should know, that we are a very

 loyal

loyal people; and that when he went to *London* with our city addreſs, Mr. *Mayne* let him know, that his MAJESTY was appriſed of his approach, and aſſured him that he would meet with a moſt gracious reception; by which his worſhip muſt certainly think that Mr. *Mayne* was no *inconſiderable perſon* at court: and Mr. *Rye*, to convince the public that *he* is no *inconſiderable perſon* with Mr. *Mayne*, informed me in the preſence of a number of freemen, that he was preſent at the junction of Sir *James* and Mr. *Mayne*, and that it was by *his advice, perſuaſion and inſtruction*, that Mr. *Mayne* joined Sir *James*.

When this junction was made, all hands were ſet to work to acquaint the public that *D—e of N——e* was in their intereſt, and commiſſioned officers and volunteers appeared in every quarter of the city, and in the neighbouring towns and villages where freemen reſided, to give freſh expectations.

Mr. *James Butler*, hoſier, at the ſign of the *almoſt* naked boy in *Burgate*, appeared as a vote-factor, and warm in their intereſt, and in bartering expectations for the vote of a perſon at *Margate*, told him that Mr. *Mayne was brother-in-law to Mr. Pitt*, and *nephew to Lord Bute*, ſo, *Daniel*, ſays he, you ſee we *are very near the helm*: Mr. *Butler* owns he ſaid ſo, and declared to me, that

e knew nothing to the contrary; and as he a man of a fair character, it appears that r. *Mayne* is *as represented*, or that Mr. *tler* has been *greatly deceived*.

Mr. *Abraham Rye*, who was present (as he d) at the junction of Sir *James Creed* and r. *Mayne*, informed several people that r. *Mayne* told *him* that he had not been at urt for the space of eight or nine days; d on *his* asking the reason, Mr. *Mayne* anered him; *why, Mr.* Rye, *as Sir* James *d I were not joined, I did not care to see his ajesty, for I knew the first question he would ve asked, would have been concerning my* nterbury *election*. This, I suppose, was to nvince the public, how earnest his MAJESwas in Mr. *Mayne*'s interest, and to pre-e him for what followed.

When this was sufficiently spread over the , Mr. *Rye* appeared in a large company, l addressing himself to Mr. *William Fran-* surgeon and apothecary; Sir, said he, I pose your father, you, and your brothers, in *our* interest. Mr. *Francis* answered in the negative. Sir, said Mr. *Rye*, you e *a brother a midshipman in the King's ser-*; I suppose your family would like to see *rise* in the navy. Undoubtedly, said Mr. *ncis*. *Sir*, said Mr. *Rye*, *unless your fa-* *be in our interest, he must remain in that ion, for those families who are not in our in-*

 terest,

tereſt, their ſons or relations who are in the King's ſervice will ſurely have

A BLACK MARK

ſet on them.

The citizens who heard Mr. *Rye* pronounce this ſentence, muſt certainly imagine it impoſſible to give an addition to his Filth or they would have rolled him thro' every kennel in the city.

A black mark!

nipping words, fellow-citizens! ſufficient to blaſt the very thoughts of liberty.

I have obſerved before, that *agents generally act according to their inſtructions*, but I am in hopes Mr. *Mayne* has not inſtructed Mr. *Abraham Rye* to threaten us in this manner; if he has, and his power and inclination are figured in Mr. *Rye*'s words, I am *concerned* he has been his Majeſty's *preceptor*, and ſhould be ſorry to ſee ſuch a man advanced in power, leſt *I* ſhould have A BLACK MARK ſet on *me* to anſwer every purpoſe he required, and be obliged to bend my neck lower to his ambition than my ſpirit would admit of. If theſe are his ſentiments, it does not appear that he is either a friend or companion of Mr. PITT; and if that great miniſter be his brother-in-law and lord *Bute* his uncle, (which I doubt) I am confident that neither of them will furniſh him with *branding irons* for ſo *black* a purpoſe.

Tur

Turn back, fellow-citizens, and read over the deſcription I have given you of the ſtate of thoſe unhappy men who live under an *abſolute* government; then ſeriouſly reflect on the methods that have been uſed to procure this gentleman his election; his wealth and power have been magnified in ſuch a manner, that the expectations of ſome men are raiſed to ſuch a pitch, that they ſtand at nothing to advance themſelves, by endeavouring to gain *his election*. A dangerous ſcheme has been laid to trepan a number of citizens out of their votes, and *many ſuch*, I fear, are practiſed; ſo many poor freemen have been ſeduced to promiſe their votes, by aſſurances of hoſpital places, that if two thirds of the houſes in a pariſh were ſold to endow the reſt, there would not be room for their reception. That many expect better places, is publickly known by thoſe who have declared *what* they have been promiſed; and if expectation be ſweeter than enjoyment, I can venture to ſay they will not be diſpoſſeſſed of their hopes by poſſeſſion; but to thoſe who are fixed in buſineſs, and have no ſuch expectations, they make uſe of deſperate measures: ſeveral have been warned out of their houſes. Mr. *Abraham Rye*, the *prime miniſter* in this affair, to ſhew a good example, has told Mr. *Worſley*, who occupies a houſe of his, (which by the landlord may

be judged a poor one) if he did not vote for Sir *James* and Mr. *Mayne*, he must turn out. The man offered to vote for one of them; but he must vote for both, or *out* was the word. I know not how Mr. *Worsley* intends to behave on this occasion, but for my part, I would sooner expose my naked body to the universal canopy, than shelter it under the roof of such a wretched landlord.

Several poor people have been *threatened*, and some actually *turned* out of employment. We are informed that commanders both by sea and land, governors of the dock-yards, *&c.* whom we maintain to support our privileges, will endeavour to prevent a free election, by giving the word to those under them; and if such persons as Mr. *Loftie* and Mr. *Francis* are threatened to have BLACK MARKS set on their children, how long may men in a labouring state call themselves free-born *Englishmen*? how long will they be able to command their votes, their labour, their children, or themselves, if such men as these get into power? perhaps they think proper to give us a specimen beforehand of what they intend, for this seems to be a new method of gaining elections.

When *Scipio Nasica* appeared for the place of *Cerule Ædile*, on shaking the hands of one of the electors, and finding it hard and

 callous,

llous, he jestingly said, "honest friend, doſt uſe to walk upon your hands?" this ight behaviour in a man who ſtood candidate for an office of conſequence, ſo diſeaſed the noble ſpirited *Romans*, that he t his election by it. But had he, or any his friends who appeared in his faour, preſumed a power over the ſenate to *ocure places* for ſuch as would *vote for* m, or ſet BLACK MARKS on thoſe who *fuſed*, I believe their reſentment would t have given them leiſure to have mounted ch men on the *Tarpeian* rock *.

As I before obſerved, whilſt they contined unawed and unbribed by the candites, *Rome* maintained and extended its wer: and may ſuch a noble ſpirit, unded by decency, inſpire all my felw-citizens; and as the glory, honour and ealth of both KING and people depend it; may we ever ſhew ſuch a generous ſpoſition for liberty, as may awe all ranks d degrees of men whatſoever, from atmpting to controul us in the choice of our ndidates, or daring to threaten us with ACK MARKS.

* A rock in ancient *Rome*, from which perſons guilty of e certain crimes were thrown headlong down.

F I N I S.